

COUNTY DESCRIPTION

Geographical Facts

Dyer County is located in the Northwest Region of West Tennessee, bordered on the north by Lake and Obion Counties, on the west by the Mississippi River, on the east by Gibson County, and on the south by Crockett and Lauderdale counties. Dyer County is considered the gateway to middle America, the county is connected to the world by interstate highways, a major railway, air facilities, and the Mississippi River. Dyer County is within a day's drive of 76 percent of this country's major markets.

Dyer County has a total population of 41,000 (1997 estimates) and Dyersburg is the county seat. Its largest population centers are Dyersburg with 21,000 residents and Newbern with 3,500 residents. The county is 528.6 square miles in area and is located 78 miles from Memphis, Tennessee and 48 miles from Jackson, Tennessee.

Economic Base

The economy in Dyer County is diversified and not dominated by anyone source. The county's economic bases consist of retail trade and services, agriculture, and industry.

Total retail sales in 1997 were reported at \$326.1 million with a per capita personal income in 1996 of \$19,930.

56 percent of Dyer County's land produces agriculture crops, farming is a \$79 million dollar industry in the county. Dyer County is Tennessee's number one producer of soybeans, grain, sorghum, commercial vegetables, and rice. There are 509 farms operating in the county with an average of 453 acres. Other crops produced are wheat, cotton, and corn.

There are several industries operating in Dyer County and the county is continuing to grow and expand.

Dyer County's 5 Largest Employers

World Color	1,200
Dyersburg Fabrics	1,150
MA Hanna	886
Jimmy Dean Foods	710
Wal-Mart Supercenter	550

Health Care

Methodist Hospital of Dyersburg serves Dyer County with a full range of diagnostic, therapeutic and specialty health care services. Methodist Hospital consists of a 225-bed hospital, a home health and hospice service and Emergency Medical Services. In addition to the hospital there are 62 physicians and surgeons with more than 18 specialties, 12 clinics, 15 dentist and 2 nursing homes.

The Dyer County Health Department is the final piece of the health care puzzle, providing services including: WIC, family planning, immunizations, nutritional education and environmental services.